

GRANTING CERTAIN CLAIMANTS PREFERENCE RIGHT
TO PURCHASE UNAPPROPRIATED PUBLIC LANDS

FEBRUARY 20, 1925.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. SINNOTT, from the committee of conference, submitted the
following

CONFERENCE REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 8522]

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H. R. 8522), granting to certain claimants the preference right to purchase unappropriated public lands, having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses as follows:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendments of the Senate numbered 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6, and agree to the same.

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 3 and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

After the word "corporation" insert a colon, and the following proviso:

Provided further, That this act shall not be construed as in any manner abridging the existing rights of any settler or entryman under the public land laws.

And the Senate agree to the same.

N. J. SINNOTT,
ADDISON T. SMITH,
JOHN E. RAKER,

Managers on the part of the House.

ROBT. N. STANFIELD,
PETER NORBECK,
KEY PITTMAN,

Managers on the part of the Senate.

STATEMENT OF THE MANAGERS ON THE PART OF THE HOUSE

The managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H. R. 8522) granting to certain claimants the preference right to purchase unappropriated public lands submit the following written statement explaining the effect of the action agreed on:

Senate amendment No. 1 grants the right to purchase to any owner in good faith of land shown by the official public land surveys to be bounded in whole or in part by the erroneously meandered area and who acquired title to such land prior to the passage of the bill.

Senate amendment No. 2 requires the applicant to show that the lands sought to be purchased are not in the legal possession of an adverse claimant under the public land laws.

Senate amendment No. 3 authorizes the Commissioner of the General Land Office, where the meandered line is bounded by two or more tracts, to divide the meandered area so as to permit a fair division of the meandered area among the owners of the surrounding or adjacent tracts. Amendment No. 3 further provides that, in case of conflict of claims, any claimant having placed valuable improvements upon the land involved, or having reduced the same to cultivation, shall be given a preference to the extent of his improvements or cultivation; also that the preference rights shall be limited to 160 acres in one body. The amendment to Senate amendment No. 3, agreed upon in conference, protects the existing rights of any settler or entryman under the public land laws.

Senate amendments Nos. 4, 5, and 6 merely correct the section numbers in the bill.

N. J. SINNOTT,
ADDISON T. SMITH,
JOHN E. RAKER,

Managers on the part of the House.